

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 SCCT-01 SSO-00 /016 W

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6602

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SY FROM RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC

SUBJ: HIRING OF SECURITY GUARDS FOR PROTECTION OF STAFF RESIDENCES

REF: DEPT 199891 TO KUALA LUMPUR

SUMMARY:RSO KL AND RSS CONCUR THAT THE JAPANESE RED ARMY INCIDENT AT THE EMBASSY HAS CAUSED THE STAFF TO OVER-REACT TO A FEW BUT NOT TOO SERIOUS BURGLARIES AND AN ADMITTEDLY SLOWLY RISING CRIME RATE IN MALAYSIA. RSS DOES NOT CONSIDER CRIME AGAINST U.S. PROPERTY IN KL TO BE DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY AT AMERICANS NOR AT THIS TIME TO BE A MANIFESTATION OF TERRORISM. HOWEVER IN THE EVENT OF GROWING POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN THE URBAN AREAS, IT IS PROBABLE THAT IT WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN INCREASE IN URBAN CRIME. MALAYSIA POLICE ACTIONS BORDERS ON BEING RE-PRESSIVE AND SHOULD TERRORISM INCREASE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BECOME PROPORTIONATELY MORE AGGRESSIVE IN THEIR COUNTER-MEASURES. THE FOLLOWING ARE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RSS:

1. EMBASSY STAFF SHOULD FOLLOW NORMAL PRUDENT PROCEDURES TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PROPERTY AND ROUTINELY USE EXISTING SECURITY DEVICES. AS AN EXAMPLE, OF THE EIGHT BURGLARIES IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, IN TWO CASES THE VICTIMS FAILED TO SECURE THE EXISTING LOCKING DEVICES ON THE DOORS OF THEIR RESIDENCES.

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2. THE RSO SHOULD CONTINUE SURVEYING THE STAFF RESIDENCES AND RECOMMEND LOCKING DEVICES, SIMPLE ALARM SYSTEMS AND RECOMMEND WHERE APPROPRIATE BARRIERS SHOULD BE INSTALLED. LANDLORDS SHOULD BE APPROACHED TO INCREASE SECURITY GRILLS, BARS AND PERIMETER PROTECTION. IF NECESSARY, THE COST OF THESE SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE PRO-RATED AND AMORTIZED IN THE LEASING AGREEMENTS. THE RSO SHOULD SURVEY RESIDENCE LOCK REQUIREMENTS AND WHERE APPROPRIATE FORWARD HIS REQUIREMENTS FOR U.S. STOCKS TO HK WITH INFO TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. THE RSO HAS ADVISED THE RSS THAT OF THE EIGHT INCIDENTS INVOLVING LOSSES OF PROPERTY, THE TOTAL NEW MARKET VALUE OF THE LOST PROPERTY WAS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$1000 U.S. THE VALUE OF THESE LOSSES DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE CONSISTENT WITH A HEAVY GUARD SERVICE EXPENDITURE. THE RSO ALSO ADVISED THAT OF THE EIGHT CASES INVOLVING LOSSES, ONLY TWO VICTIMS ADVISED THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN KL; THE OTHER VICTIMS REPORTEDLY DID NOT TURN THE MATTER OVER TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT. THE LARGEST SINGLE LOSS WAS ABOUT \$500 WORTH OF STEREO EQUIPMENT AND THE REMAINING LOSSES WERE A LAWN MOWER, CHILDREN'S BICYCLES, SET OF PROPANE TANKS, AND ITEMS OF LESSER VALUE. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THESE LOSSES LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT A HIGHER DEGREE OF ROUTINE SECURITY PROCEDURES AND SOME INEXPENSIVE SECURITY INOVATIONS COULD HAVE PREVENTED AT LEAST SOME OF THESE LOSSES.

4. OFFICIAL CRIME INDICES IN KL HAVE NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY FROM THE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES, HOWEVER, THE CHIEF OF THE SERVICES HAS DISCLOSED TO THE RSO THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN OVERALL INCREASE OF CRIME IN MALAYSIA. THE EMBASSY'S ESTIMATE OF CRIME INCREASES ARE BASED ON STAFF EXPERIENCES AND DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RATHER THAN ON STATISTICAL EVIDENCE. RSO SHOULD SECURE OFFICIAL STATISTICS IF AVAILABLE.

5. THE SUBJECT OF GUARD SERVICES AND PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE FOREGOING DISCUSSION WAS REVIEWED BY THE RSS AT A WEEKLY COUNTRY TEAM MEETING. ON THIS OCCASION THE RSS WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADVISED BY CHARGE THAT OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN KL DO NOT PROVIDE GUARD SERVICES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCES AND POSSIBLY THE HOUSES OF OTHER SELECTED HIGH RANKING OFFICIALS. THE SAME GENERAL PATTERN SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWED IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY SECTOR WHERE TOP EXECUTIVES DO HAVE GUARD PROTECTION, BUT THE PRACTICE DOES NOT EXTEND DOWN TO THE OTHER LOWER STAFF ECHELONS. AT THIS COUNTRY TEAM MEETING THE RSS MADE THE POINT THAT

THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE IN AN IN-DEPTH GUARD PROTECTION PROGRAM UNLESS THE EMBASSY COULD DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) A HEAVY UNCONTROLLED CRIME SITUATION THAT WAS ALMOST BEYOND THE CONTROL OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.
- (B) A SITUATION WHERE THE LAW ENFORCEMENT WAS PARALYZED OR FULLY ENGAGED IN ANTI-INSURGENT ACTIVITY.
- (C) THAT THERE WAS A DISTINCT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRIME AND TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

THE RSS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE SITUATION IN KL QUALIFIES UNDER THE FOREGOING CRITERIA AND THE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE TO PRESENT A FAR STRONGER AND MORE CONVINCING CASE TO THE DEPARMENT.

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT IN KL AND MALAYSIA IS EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE WITH PARTICULARLY HEAVY PENALTIES FOR CARRYING LETHAL WEAPONS OR FOR COMMISSION OF CRIME AGAINST PERSONS. RSO RELATED THE INCIDENCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL, WITH A PREVIOUS ARREST RECORD, WAS PICKED UP WITH FOUR UNEXPENDED ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION IN HIS POCKETS BUT NO WEAPON. AFTER TRIAL THIS SUSPECT RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF FOUR STROKES WITH A ROTAN. DURING THE RSS VISIT IN KL THE NEWSPAPER CARRIED AN ACCOUNT OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A PREVIOUS CRIMINAL RECORD WHO WAS ARRESTED WITH A WEAPON ON HIS PERSON BUT WAS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY OVERT CRIMINAL ACT. THIS MAN RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND SIX STROKES OF A ROTAN. CRIMES SOLELY AGAINST PROPERTY ARE DEALT WITH LESS SEVERELY BUT PENALTIES ARE FAR MORE SEVERE THAN IN U.S. SOCIETY.

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6603

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SY FROM RSS

7. AT PRESENT THERE HAS BEEN OCCASION FOR SOME GUARD SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED TO AMERICAN STAFF MEMBERS BESIDES THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM. BASICALLY THESE SERVICES ARE SCHEDULED AT RESIDENCES WHEN THE FAMILY IS ABSENT ON HOME LEAVE OR ANNUAL LEAVE AND THE HOUSE IS NOT BEING OCCUPIED. ALSO SOME PROTECTIVE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED WHEN THE MAN OF THE HOUSEHOLD IS GONE, LEAVING HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN IN THE RESIDENCE. THIS PRACTICE, OF COURSE, RAISES THE QUESTION OF A SINGLE FEMALE STAFF MEMBER WHO RESIDES ALONE IN HER RESIDENCE.

8. SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT DECIDE TO ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF A GUARD PROGRAM, THE WRITER SUGGESTS THAT CONSIDERATION BE INITIALLY GIVEN FOR GUARDS DURING THE PERIODS OF THE HOURS OF APPROXIMATELY 10 P.M. TO 7 A.M.

9. FINALLY, IF THE DEPARTMENT DECIDES AGAINST INITIATING A GUARD PROGRAM FOR STAFF RESIDENCES, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS DECISION MUST BE SHARED SHOULD SOME UNFORESEEN TRAGEDY WHICH COULD OCCUR IN ANY SOCIETY AND THE RISK IS NOT LIMITED TO KL. THE POST HAVING REQUESTED SUCH GUARD SERVICES PRESUMABLY HAS EXERCISED ITS BEST JUDGMENT AND HAS PLACED THE ONUS FOR REFUSAL ON THE DEPARTMENT.

10. THE INCIDENT OF CRIME, PARTICULARLY THEFT AND BURGLARLY SHOULD BE CLOSELY WATCHED IN THE FUTURE WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSSIBILITY THAT AN IMPRESSIVE INCREASE OF CRIME MAY WARRANT A REVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR GUARD SERVICES.

11. THE WRITER HAS DISCUSSED MOST OF THE FOREGOING OBSERVATIONS WITH THE EMBASSY COUNTRY TEAM BUT PERHAPS IN MORE CONCILIATORY TERMS. THIS TRANSMISSION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE DISSEMINATED TO THE POST SINCE THE ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE TONE WOULD BE AN EMOTIONAL CHALLENGE AND COULD REDUCE THE RSS EFFECTIVENESS ON OTHER MATTERS. A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE WILL BE MAILED TO RSO ALGIRA AT KL ON A LIMITED DISSEMINATION BASIS.  
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